



Complete Summary

TITLE

Influenza immunization: percentage of Medicare members age 65 years and older who received an influenza vaccination from September through December of the year prior to the measurement year.

SOURCE(S)

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS 2004. Health plan employer data & information set. Vol. 2, Technical specifications. Washington (DC): National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); 2003. 374 p.

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS 2004. Health plan employer data & information set. Vol. 3, Specifications for survey measures. Washington (DC): National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); 2003. 254 p.

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure assesses the percentage of Medicare members age 65 years and older as of January 1 of the measurement year who were continuously enrolled from September 1 through December 31 of the year prior to the measurement year and who received an influenza vaccination from September through December of the year prior to the measurement year.

RATIONALE

Older adults are at high risk for complications following infection with influenza. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American College of Physicians (ACP) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) recommends that all adults over 65 years of age receive influenza vaccination yearly to protect them against infection and to reduce the risk of complications should they become infected.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Influenza; vaccination

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

The number of members who responded "Yes" or "No" to the question "Did you get a flu shot last year, from September 1 through December YYYY?"* and were

enrolled September 1 through December 31 of the year prior to the measurement year according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) beneficiary database

*YYYY = the previous year (2001 for the survey fielded in fall 2002)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

The number of members in the denominator who responded "Yes" to the question "Did you get a flu shot last year, from September 1 through December YYYY?"*

*YYYY = the previous year (2001 for the survey fielded in fall 2002)

Evidence Supporting the Measure

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Not applicable

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE MEASURE

A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

A formal consensus procedure involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, and organizational sciences

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Use of this measure to improve performance

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE

American College of Physicians Task Force on Adult Immunization and Infectious Diseases Society. Guide for adult immunization. 3rd ed. Philadelphia (PA): American College of Physicians; 1994.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prevention and control of influenza: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2000; 49(RR-3): 1-38.

Prevention and control of influenza: Part I, Vaccines. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR Recomm Rep 1993 May 14;42(RR-6): 1-14. [PubMed](#)

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Accreditation

Decision-making by consumers about health plan/provider choice

Decision-making by health plans about provider contracting

Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Managed Care Plans

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Measure is not provider specific

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Age greater than or equal to 65 years

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

See "Burden of Illness" field.

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Older adults are at high risk for complications following infection with influenza. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American College of Physicians (ACP) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America recommends that all adults over 65 years of age receive influenza vaccination yearly to protect them against infection and to reduce the risk of complications should they become infected.

EVIDENCE FOR ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

American College of Physicians Task Force on Adult Immunization and Infectious Diseases Society. Guide for adult immunization. 3rd ed. Philadelphia (PA): American College of Physicians; 1994.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prevention and control of influenza: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2000; 49(RR-3): 1-38.

Prevention and control of influenza: Part I, Vaccines. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR Recomm Rep 1993 May 14; 42(RR-6): 1-14. [PubMed](#)

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Influenza annually accounts for 20,000 or more deaths each year in the United States. According to Healthy People 2010 statistics, influenza causes an estimated 110,000 hospitalizations and 20,000 deaths among persons over the age of 65. Increased mortality results not only from influenza and pneumonia, but also from cardiopulmonary and other chronic diseases that can be exacerbated by influenza infection.

EVIDENCE FOR BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prevention and control of influenza: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2000; 49(RR-3): 1-38.

Facts about influenza. [internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID); 2002 Oct 1 [cited 2003 Nov 26].

Leading Health Indicators (LHIs) established by Healthy People 2010. [internet]. Washington (DC): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; [cited 2003 Nov 06].

UTILIZATION

See "Burden of Illness" field.

COSTS

Annual economic costs associated with influenza epidemics exceed \$12 billion. Influenza affects millions of Americans each year, keeping them home from work. Influenza causes increased work absenteeism, decreased productivity, and increased health care costs during the flu season. From 1971-1972 through 1977-1978, influenza-associated productivity loss from work absences averaged approximately \$764 million per year.

EVIDENCE FOR COSTS

Riddiough MA, Sisk JE, Bell JC. Influenza vaccination. JAMA 1983 Jun 17;249(23):3189-95. [PubMed](#)

Williams WW, Hickson MA, Kane MA, Kendal AP, Spika JS, Hinman AR. Immunization policies and vaccine coverage among adults. The risk for missed opportunities. Ann Intern Med 1988 Apr;108(4):616-25. [122 references] [PubMed](#)

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Staying Healthy

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Both users and nonusers of care

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

Medicare members age 65 years and older as of January 1 of the measurement year who were continuously enrolled from September 1 through December 31 of the year prior to the measurement year with no gaps in enrollment and currently enrolled at the time the survey is completed

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Patient Characteristic

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

The number of members who responded "Yes" or "No" to the question "Did you get a flu shot last year, from September 1 through December YYYY?"* and were enrolled September 1 through December 31 of the year prior to the measurement

year according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) beneficiary database

*YYYY = the previous year (2001 for the survey fielded in fall 2002)

Exclusions
Unspecified

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions
The number of members in the denominator who responded "Yes" to the question "Did you get a flu shot last year, from September 1 through December YYYY?"*

*YYYY = the previous year (2001 for the survey fielded in fall 2002)

Exclusions
Unspecified

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window precedes index event

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Fixed time period

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data and patient survey

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

External comparison at a point in time
External comparison of time trends
Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

Flu shots for older adults.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[HEDIS® 2004: Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set](#)

DEVELOPER

National Committee for Quality Assurance - Private Nonprofit Organization

ADAPTATION

This measure is collected, calculated and reported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) using the Medicare version of the CAHPS® survey, (Medicare CAHPS® survey).

CAHPS® 3.0 is sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

PARENT MEASURE

CAHPS® (Consumer Assessment of Health Plans) 3.0 (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality [AHRQ])

RELEASE DATE

1997 Jan

REVISION DATE

2002 Jan

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

SOURCE(S)

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS 2004. Health plan employer data & information set. Vol. 2, Technical specifications. Washington (DC): National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); 2003. 374 p.

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). HEDIS 2004. Health plan employer data & information set. Vol. 3, Specifications for survey measures. Washington (DC): National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); 2003. 254 p.

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Flu Shots for Older Adults," is published in "HEDIS 2004. Health plan employer data & information set. Vol. 2, Technical Specifications."

For more information, contact the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) at 2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036; Telephone: 202-955-3500; Fax: 202-955-3599; Web site: www.ncqa.org.

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on August 7, 2003. The information was verified by the measure developer on October 24, 2003.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

This NQMC summary is based on the original measure, which is subject to the measure developer's copyright restrictions.

For detailed specifications regarding the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) measures, refer to HEDIS Volume 2: Technical Specifications, available from the NCQA Web site at www.ncqa.org.

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